

Over 200 specimens of the new variety have been examined and its novelty seems constant. Both *rudentis* and *smithii* represent extremes of variation of a common type. It is named in honor of Professor Frank Smith, who collected the specimens.

NOTES.

POLYGYRA CLARKII BRADLEYI n. var. Similar to typical *clarkii*, but lacks the basal tooth. It has the base malleate but without strong radial sculpture.

Alt. 10.5, diam. 14 mm.

Locality: Black Rock Mt., Rabun Co., Georgia. Type in the collection of the Academy of Natural Sciences, no. 104800. Named in honor of the collector, Dr. J. Chester Bradley. Figured on plate VIII, to appear next month.

E. G. VANATTA.

MAINE PEARLS.—Fresh-water pearls are obtained in Maine, as far as I know, exclusively from *Margaritana margaritifera* Linné. Eight or nine years ago this noble mollusk was abundant in the small streams about my home at Buckfield, Maine; but its numbers have since been regrettably thinned by the ravages of pearl-hunters. Probably, however, it will not be exterminated, since some individuals will remain in hidden and inaccessible situations.

I have found pearls rather copiously while collecting large mature shells for specimens; but most of them were dull or leaden-colored. The largest shells found exceeded six inches in length.

I recently conversed with a carpenter of Turner, Maine, who has hunted pearls in his spare time. He did not destroy the clams indiscriminately, as is done by the more ignorant and reckless pearl-hunters, but only opened those which indicated by some external malformation the probable presence of a pearl. He said that many of the clams lived buried completely below the surface. These were imbedded in the sand at the bottom of the brook and covered by a layer of mud of vegetable origin perhaps six inches thick.

He found one very large and fine pearl, spherical, "about as big as a marble," in a conspicuously deformed shell. This brought him \$400, and it may be presumed that the ultimate purchaser paid a considerably larger sum for it.—JOHN A. ALLEN.